

# Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i> .....	1
<b><i>Part I: Conspiracy Theories and Secret Societies: The Improbable Wedded to the Inscrutable</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
Chapter 1: Everything You Know Is Wrong .....	9
Chapter 2: Conspiracism and the Origin of Modern Conspiracy Theories .....	19
Chapter 3: Building the Perfect Beast: Secret Societies through the Ages .....	33
<b><i>Part II: A Colossal Compilation of Conspiracy Theories</i></b> .....	<b>45</b>
Chapter 4: Everybody Knows About It: The World's Most Common Conspiracy Theories .....	47
Chapter 5: JFK and Other Presidents: The Conspiracies Behind the Guns .....	67
Chapter 6: The World Ends Monday — Racial, Religious, and Apocalyptic Conspiracies .....	95
Chapter 7: Not of This Earth: Innocent Pawns in an Intergalactic Imbroglio .....	117
Chapter 8: Tracking the Evolution of the 9/11 Conspiracy Theories .....	137
<b><i>Part III: Secret Societies and Societies with Secrets</i></b> ....	<b>157</b>
Chapter 9: The Freemasons: The World's Longest-Running Secret Society .....	159
Chapter 10: Rosicrucians and the Evolution of Occult Secret Societies .....	183
Chapter 11: The Illuminati: The Bavarian Boogeymen .....	207
Chapter 12: Secret Societies of Terror and Death .....	219
Chapter 13: Frolicsome Fraternalism and Nefarious Foes of Freedom .....	249
Chapter 14: Thugs, Mugs, and Lugs: The Mafia and Other Underworld Societies .....	267
Chapter 15: Banks and Super Committees: Knowing All, Owning All, Controlling All.....	297
<b><i>Part IV: The Part of Tens</i></b> .....	<b>315</b>
Chapter 16: Ten Conspiracy Theories That Skirt the Edge of Madness .....	317
Chapter 17: Ten Conspiracies That Were Absolutely True .....	329
Chapter 18: Ten Weirdest Secret Societies of All Time.....	343
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>351</b>



# Table of Contents

.....

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
About This Book.....	2
Conventions Used in This Book .....	2
What You're Not To Read .....	3
Foolish Assumptions .....	3
How This Book Is Organized.....	4
Part I: Conspiracy Theories and Secret Societies:	
The Improbable Wedded to the Inscrutable .....	4
Part II: A Colossal Compilation of Conspiracy Theories .....	4
Part III: Secret Societies and Societies with Secrets .....	5
Part IV: The Part of Tens.....	5
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here.....	6

<b><i>Part 1: Conspiracy Theories and Secret Societies: The Improbable Wedded to the Inscrutable</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------

<b>Chapter 1: Everything You Know Is Wrong</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Living in the Age of Conspiracy Theories and Secret Societies .....	10
What's Worth Scrutinizing, and What's Not.....	11
Connecting the dots .....	11
Being skeptical about speculative thinking .....	13
The Conspiracism World Tour .....	13
The birth of 20th-century U.S. conspiracism.....	14
Conspiracy theories aren't limited to the USA! .....	17
A Word About Skepticism .....	17

<b>Chapter 2: Conspiracism and the Origin of Modern Conspiracy Theories</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Defining and Recognizing Conspiracism .....	20
Just what is conspiracism? .....	20
Conspiracism and secret societies .....	21
Understanding How Conspiracists Think .....	22
Shall we dance to the left or the right?.....	23
Lack of proof is the proof .....	23
What the behaviorists say.....	23



- Examining Types of Conspiracy Theories .....24
- The French Revolution and the Birth of Modern Conspiracism.....26
  - Attitudes before the French Revolution .....26
  - Off with their heads!.....27
  - The birth of conspiracy literature.....28
- Dreck Alert! Dreck Alert!.....31

**Chapter 3: Building the Perfect Beast:  
Secret Societies through the Ages ..... 33**

- Defining Secret Societies .....34
- The Difference Between a Secret Society and a Religious Cult .....35
  - Examining the fine lines .....35
  - Examining the specifics .....35
  - Organizations that straddle the fence .....37
- The Second-Oldest Profession: Secret Societies in Ancient Times .....38
  - Egypt: Source of the first secret society? .....38
  - Greece: Ancient cults and mystery schools.....38
  - Rome: Cults and paranoia .....40
  - Europe: Secret societies from the Middle Ages onward.....43
  - United States: Societies and fraternalism .....43
  - A new interest in secret societies.....44

***Part II: A Colossal Compilation of Conspiracy Theories ...45***

**Chapter 4: Everybody Knows About It: The World's  
Most Common Conspiracy Theories ..... 47**

- Technological Terrors .....48
  - Fluoridated water and the Cold War Communist Plot.....48
  - Chemtrails .....50
  - Nikola Tesla and “free electricity” .....51
  - Peace ray or death ray? .....52
  - HAARP — The electromagnetic superweapon .....52
  - Philadelphia Experiment’s vanishing ship .....53
- Dirty Work Down Below — Underground Government Installations .....55
  - Alleged underground bunkers .....55
  - Denver International Airport: The New World Order’s subterranean HQ.....57
- Night of the Living Dead — A Conga Line of Corpses .....59
  - Elvis Presley still walks among us! .....59
  - “Paul is dead” .....61
- Stifling Innovations that Threaten Corporate Profits .....63
  - Subliminal advertising .....63
  - The ten-wiener, eight-bun conspiracy .....65

**Chapter 5: JFK and Other Presidents:  
The Conspiracies Behind the Guns . . . . . 67**

- JFK: The Very Model of a Modern Major Conspiracy Theory .....68
  - Just the facts, please.....68
  - Lee Harvey Oswald .....69
  - Examining the conspiracy background .....70
  - Taking style over substance.....72
  - Considering the source.....73
  - The pansy plot.....74
  - Okay, so why did Jack Ruby shoot Oswald?.....80
- Looking at Other Presidential Assassinations.....81
  - Abraham Lincoln .....81
  - James Garfield.....90
  - William McKinley.....91

**Chapter 6: The World Ends Monday — Racial,  
Religious, and Apocalyptic Conspiracies . . . . . 95**

- Picking on the Jews: History’s Most Common Blame Game.....95
  - Turning Jews into conspiracy scapegoats .....96
  - The Dark Ages get darker .....97
  - The Jews as moneylenders .....99
  - Extending the blame to the present day .....99
- Catholic Conspiracy Theories .....101
  - The 3rd secret of Fatima.....102
  - Pope Pius XII and the Nazis.....104
  - The Vatican Islam Conspiracy theory.....105
- Islamic Conspiracy Theories .....106
- African Americans and Conspiracy Theories.....108
  - COINTELPRO.....108
  - The King Alfred Plan .....109
  - The Willie Lynch Letter .....110
  - Memorandum 46.....111
  - Common urban legends.....112
  - Cocaine and the CIA.....113
  - The AIDS epidemic .....114
- Apocalyptic Conspiracies .....115

**Chapter 7: Not of This Earth: Innocent  
Pawns in an Intergalactic Imbroglia . . . . . 117**

- Earth versus the Flying Saucers!.....118
- The Roswell Incident .....119
  - Unidentified debris discovered .....119
  - Roswell resurrected .....121
  - Tracking the government’s paper trail .....122

Area 51 .....	124
Strange aircraft .....	125
The UFO connection .....	126
Government Investigations of UFOs .....	127
Project Sign .....	127
Project Grudge.....	128
Project Blue Book.....	129
The Brookings Report.....	132
Britain’s “Flying Saucer Working Party” .....	133
NASA’s “Phony” Moon Landings.....	133

### **Chapter 8: Tracking the Evolution of the 9/11 Conspiracy Theories .....137**

September 11, 2001 .....	138
Tracking the Origins of 9/11 Conspiracy Theories .....	138
The 9/11 “Truth Movement” .....	140
Examining the Main 9/11 Conspiracy Theories.....	141
The terrorist pilots weren’t trained well enough to do what they did .....	141
Terrorists can’t hold passengers at bay with simple plastic knives or box cutters .....	144
The Air Force was ordered to stand down.....	145
The Twin Towers were brought down by bombs, not the airplanes.....	148
Fire can’t melt steel! .....	149
The gobbledygook over WTC 7 .....	150
The Towers Struck an Iceberg.....	152
The neocon menace .....	153
The “proof” is in the poetry .....	154

## ***Part III: Secret Societies and Societies with Secrets ..... 157***

### **Chapter 9: The Freemasons: The World’s Longest-Running Secret Society .....159**

Examining the Origins of Freemasonry .....	160
So what’s the big secret? .....	161
Dating back to the Old Testament.....	164
Evolving into modern Masons: Operative and speculative periods.....	165

Modern Mason Methods and Memberships.....	166
Hints of suspicion.....	167
The basic Masonic degrees of membership .....	168
Aspiring to more and “higher” degrees .....	169
Worldwide Distrust of Masonry .....	170
Templars = Masons = Illuminati = Jews? .....	171
How the Knights Templar got involved .....	172
Mixing in the Illuminati.....	173
How the Masons and Jews wound up controlling the world .....	173
Who’s in charge? Seeking Masonic authorities .....	175
Looking at Masonic plots that were real .....	176
Popular (And Untrue) Masonic Conspiracy Theories.....	178
The satanic map of Washington, D.C. ....	180
The Masonic dollar bill.....	181
Scottish Rite 32nd degree rings .....	182

## **Chapter 10: Rosicrucians and the Evolution of Occult Secret Societies .....183**

Before Rosicrucianism: Hermeticism versus the Enlightenment .....	184
The Rosicrucians.....	185
The tale of Christian Rosenkreutz.....	186
Johann Valentin Andrae.....	186
The birth of Rosicrucian societies .....	187
Modern Rosicrucianism .....	188
Rosicrucianism and “Fringe Freemasonry” .....	189
Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia (SRIA) .....	190
Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis (SRICF) .....	190
Martinism .....	191
Martinism revived .....	191
Synarchy hijacks Martinism.....	192
The 19th Century and Occult Societies.....	192
The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.....	193
The influence of Spiritualism .....	194
The Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO) .....	195
20th-Century Occultism and the Rise of the Nazis .....	198
Madame Blavatsky’s Theosophical Society.....	199
German occultism, secret societies, and the Nazis .....	203
Heinrich Himmler’s Nazi Knighthood .....	205

<b>Chapter 11: The Illuminati: The Bavarian Boogeymen</b> . . . . .	<b>207</b>
The Original “Illuminated Ones” . . . . .	208
The Bavarian Illuminati: Short Life, Long Legacy . . . . .	208
Adam Weishaupt . . . . .	209
Spartacus and the Areopagites . . . . .	209
The Masonic connection . . . . .	210
The Congress of Wilhelmsbad . . . . .	211
The Illuminati cracks up . . . . .	212
Illuminati in America? . . . . .	213
Building a Boogeyman: The Illuminati as All-purpose Evil . . . . .	214
The Illuminati and the occult . . . . .	214
Nesta Webster and the Illuminati’s conspiracy against civilization . . . . .	215
The Illuminati today: All things to all people . . . . .	216
<b>Chapter 12: Secret Societies of Terror and Death</b> . . . . .	<b>219</b>
The Ancient Brotherhoods of Death . . . . .	220
The Sicarii . . . . .	220
The Assassins . . . . .	221
The Thugs . . . . .	226
The ninjas . . . . .	228
Murder, Incorporated . . . . .	231
Hate Group Assassins . . . . .	233
The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan . . . . .	234
Birth of the first Klan . . . . .	234
“Birth of a Nation” and the rebirth of the Klan . . . . .	235
The politics of change . . . . .	236
A nation of joiners . . . . .	237
Hijacking the Klan . . . . .	239
The Klan goes underground . . . . .	243
Mississippi burning . . . . .	243
The Klan today . . . . .	245
The spawn of the KKK . . . . .	245
Black Supremacism . . . . .	246
<b>Chapter 13: Frolicsome Fraternalism and Nefarious Foes of Freedom</b> . . . . .	<b>249</b>
The Golden Age of Fraternalism . . . . .	249
The birth of the fraternalism movement . . . . .	250
What about women? . . . . .	254
The fraternal military orders . . . . .	255

College Fraternities and Secret Societies.....255  
     Fraternities with a Masonic connection .....255  
     Skull and Bones .....256  
 Revolutionary Brotherhoods.....258  
     Copperheads and the Knights of the Golden Circle.....258  
     The Fenian Brotherhood .....260  
     The Shield Society.....261  
     Operation Werwolf .....262  
     Al-Qaeda .....263

**Chapter 14: Thugs, Mugs, and Lugs: The Mafia and Other Underworld Societies .....267**

    Birth of the Mafia — Queen Mother of Criminal Secret Societies.....268  
         Sicily: Mafia’s motherland .....268  
         The birth of the Cosa Nostra .....270  
         Vendetta!.....271  
     The Mafia and Organized Crime in America.....272  
         Tales of the Five Points gangs.....272  
         Paddywhacked — The Irish Mafia.....273  
         The Kosher mob .....274  
         Shadow of the Black Hand.....275  
         Prohibition and the birth of the Rackets.....275  
         The FBI, RICO, and the Decline of the Mafia .....282  
     The Big Five Families of the Commission .....282  
         The Gambino Family .....283  
         The Genovese Family .....284  
         The Colombo Family .....284  
         The Lucchese Family .....285  
         The Bonanno Family .....285  
     Welcome to the Family! Mafia Rituals.....286  
     The Ongoing Struggle to Crush the Mafia.....287  
         Taking the fight back to Sicily .....287  
         Two real “men of honor” .....288  
         We’re mad as hell, and we’re not going to take it anymore! .....289  
     Other Mafias, Lost and Found .....290  
         Going Italian .....290  
         Going International .....292  
     The Impact of the Mafia on Popular Culture .....293  
         Early gangster films.....294  
         The Godfather myth cycle.....295

**Chapter 15: Banks and Super Committees:  
Knowing All, Owning All, Controlling All . . . . . 297**

Bankers and Nefarious Banking Plots.....	297
Why do the Jews get the banking blame? .....	298
The Rothschild banking family .....	300
Perils of the Federal Reserve .....	301
Supersecret Committees .....	303
Cecil Rhodes and the Rhodes-Milner Round Table.....	303
Council on Foreign Relations.....	306
The Trilateral Commission .....	308
The Bilderberg Group .....	308
Bohemian Club and Bohemian Grove.....	309
The Committee of 300.....	312

***Part IV: The Part of Tens*.....315**

**Chapter 16: Ten Conspiracy Theories  
That Skirt the Edge of Madness . . . . . 317**

There's More than One Pope .....	317
Space Shuttle Columbia's "Deliberate" Destruction.....	319
Richard Hoagland and the Face on Mars .....	320
Polio Epidemic Spread by a Conspiracy Theory .....	321
David Icke, Reptilian Humanoids, and the Babylonian Brotherhood .....	321
The "Murder" of Princess Diana.....	323
The Bombing of New Orleans's Levees .....	324
Scientology and the IRS.....	325
The Pentagon Cruise Missile of 9/11 .....	326
Deniers of the Holocaust.....	327

**Chapter 17: Ten Conspiracies That Were Absolutely True . . . . . 329**

The Aaron Burr Conspiracy.....	329
The Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male .....	333
The General Motors Streetcar Conspiracy .....	334
Project MKULTRA — The CIA's Mind Control and LSD Experiments ...	334
The Ford Pinto Memorandum .....	335
The FDR Putsch Conspiracy .....	336
The P2 Masonic Lodge Conspiracy.....	337
NATO, Nazis, and the Gehlen Conspiracy .....	338
The CAN Coverup.....	339
The Dreyfus Affair .....	340

---

**Chapter 18: Ten Weirdest Secret Societies of All Time . . . . .343**

    Bohemian Grove.....343

    Carnation-Painted Eyebrows Society .....344

    E Clampus Vitus .....344

    Fils d’Adam (Sons of Adam).....345

    The Khlysty.....345

    Los Hermanos Penitentes .....346

    Order of the Peacock Angel .....348

    The Skoptzy .....348

    The Vril Society .....349

    Worshippers of the Onion.....350

***Index* . . . . .351**

